



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **GUILTY PLEA - CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD FLETC**

**SAVANNAH:** Rick Thompson, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, and Connie Patrick, Director, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), announced today that Rene Macias entered a guilty plea in U.S. District Court, Brunswick, Georgia, on charges that he conspired to defraud FLETC, the Social Security Administration and the U.S. Department of Labor by the submission of fraudulent Social Security numbers to FLETC for contract laborers who were working at the Center. The Indictment charged that between June 9 and December 8, 2000, Macias, who was working for a contractor at FLETC, conspired with another person to submit payroll forms to FLETC bearing the names of employees and Social Security numbers which had not been issued to the people whose names were on the payroll forms.

The maximum punishment for the conspiracy charge is up to 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Thompson further stated that the government's investigation is continuing to determine the extent of other individuals' involvement in this home repair fraud scheme.

The case was investigated by Special Agent Laura Strong of the FLETC, Special Agent Tom Brancaccio of the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General, and Special Agent Becky Hall of the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General. The government was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey J. Buerstatte.

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